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Paper No. 7

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MAY 01 2003

In re Application of : OFFICE OF PETITIONS  
Mark A. Carlson et al :  
Application No. 10/027,325 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: December 20, 2001 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)  
Attorney Docket No. D-4560 :  
:

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed April 7, 2003, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional applications.

The petition is **Granted**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);
- (2) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional; and
- (3) the reference to the prior-filed provisional application supplied in an application data sheet (ADS)(37 CFR 1.76) or as an amendment in the first sentence of the specification following the title. *See* 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(iii). The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on December 20, 2001, within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional applications, for which priority is claimed. A reference to the prior-filed provisional applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed provisional applications was submitted during the pendency of the nonprovisional application for which the benefit is sought. *See* 35 U.S.C. §119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to the prior-filed provisional applications is granted.

***The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.***

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed provisional applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Karen Creasy at (703) 305-8859.

The application is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 3711 for processing the amendment submitted April 7, 2003 and for consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of priority to prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/328,594, filed October 11, 2001, and provisional Application No. 60/328,617, filed October 11, 2001.<sup>1</sup>

*Frances Hicks*  
Frances Hicks  
Lead Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy

**ATTACHMENT:** Corrected Filing Receipt

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<sup>1</sup>It is noted in the petition and the amendment filed April 7, 2003, that the filing date of October 10, 2001 was indicated instead of October 11, 2001, which is of record.